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SOURCE Ta-chung Jih-pao.DEATH CLAIMS FAMINE VICTIMS IN SHANTUNG PROVINCE

An editorial in the Tsinan Ta-chung Jih-pao, of 14 April 1953 stated that because of poor management by the local cadres of famine relief work there were deaths from starvation in a number of places in the generally rich agricultural province of Shantung. The editorial said that this had occurred in spite of the fact that the provincial authorities issued relief funds equaling those issued in the really serious famine year of 1950. A summary of the editorial follows:

Party leaders and authorities on all levels must immediately undertake practical relief measures to prevent the extension of the famine conditions into the summer and autumn, by setting up procedures for self-relief by increased production on the part of the afflicted farmers. They should personally visit and inspect the seriously affected areas and carefully analyze the causes of the trouble and recommend the necessary corrective measures.

This year's famine situation is difficult to deal with because it is largely confined to isolated areas and is caused by a wide variety of factors. No single pattern of amelioration can be applied universally. Almost every case must be handled on its own merits. In some cases, because of lack of accurate knowledge of the situation, there has been an over-emphasis on publicity in order to secure government aid. Cadres must get away from blind dependence on aid from higher levels and devote their efforts to local measures for relief.

Private borrowing and lending among relatives and neighbors on a voluntary basis must be encouraged as a means of relieving famine distress. Some cadres have feared to encourage such activity or have even forbidden it.

All trading organizations should aid the farmers in marketing the products of their supplementary industries. Cadres and authorities should give all possible aid to famine-stricken peasants so that early maturing grains and vegetables may be planted for an early food supply.

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